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## THE WORLD LEFTOVER BY WAR

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**W**orld war II came to an end. Countries that maintained different ideologies fought the war unitedly..

Capitalist America and Communist Russia united in the name of war. What happened to this unity after the war? What were the changes brought about by the war in different countries? How did power blocs and alliances emerge in world politics? Many questions like these necessitate an enquiry about the post war world.

### **Beginning of the nuclear era**

The moment Russia declared war on Japan in the Pacific, the outcome of the war was destined to be in favour of the Allied Powers. Why were atom bombs used in a war that could have been won without such deadly weapons? America foresaw the emergence of an auspicious time for laying the foundation of the post war world order. The use of atom bomb

was intended to put Russia under pressure. However this attempt led to the formation of a new foreign policy among the imperialist powers. They called it Atom Diplomacy or Cold War.

What is the essence of this policy? How did the imperialist countries modify the policy to their advantage?

### **Advantage even in war**

War usually breaks the backbone of those who participate in it. But what about America? Americans gained much from the war. What was the reason for it?

- Use of war weapons increased
- American industrial production increased by two and a half times.
- The fall of Germany and Japan gave America dominance in trade

- No war was fought on American soil. European countries suffered heavy losses.
- With the liberation of colonies one by one European countries declined financially. This led to American dominance.
- The resources of England and France got exhausted. They had to seek American help.
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Economic, political and military imperial power centre was shifted from Europe to America. Undisputed world dominance was America's longtime dream. By the end of the war without much strain they won it.

Could America retain this domination unilaterally?

### **Unexpected setback**

The Soviet Union did not perish as America had anticipated. Instead it emerged stronger.

When the war started in 1939 Soviet Union and Mongolia were the only socialist countries. But after the war European countries such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Albania accepted the socialist order. Apart from this East Germany was also moving towards closer to socialist structure under the influence of Russia. Moreover working class movements began to strengthen all over the world. During 1946-47 communists had representation in the governments of France, Italy, Belgium, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Austria Finland and Luxemburg.

### **German crisis and the division of Germany**

In accordance with the decisions of Potsdam Conference Germany was divided into four units each under France, America, England and Soviet Union. Later the first three



East and West Germanies separated by the Berlin wall

units were amalgamated and West Germany was formed. The Soviet Zone became East Germany. The Berlin wall was built as the line of demarcation between the two Germanies. Perpetual tension existed between these two countries that represented contradictory ideologies. What is the present condition of the Berlin wall? Collect details and record them.

We have discussed the post war developments in Europe. What were the developments in Asia?

Revolutions that attracted global attention took place in many Asiatic countries

### **Chinese Revolution**

With the defeat of Japan in the war the Chinese provinces occupied by Japan were liberated. Thereafter China was brought under two administrative orders. Three-fourths of China was under Kuomintang government led by Chiang Kai Shek and the rest was with the communist government. Chiang Kai Shek had a huge American trained army. Communists had the Peoples Republican Army, a voluntary organisation. In 1946 the two groups came to clash. It developed into a civil war. War equipment worth 600 crore dollars were supplied to Chiang Kai Shek by America. But the Peoples Army defeated and expelled the Kuomintang army heroically. Chiang Kai Shek took asylum in the island of Taiwan. In 1949 in the presence of a huge crowd in Tianenmen square in Peking, China was declared as Peoples Republic. Mao Tse Tung was the Chairman of Chinese Republic.

### **Korea becomes a democratic republic**

Which is the boundary line that demarcates North Korea and South Korea? With the defeat

of Japan in the World War II, She lost the domination over Korea. On the basis of a treaty North Korea was brought under Russian control and South Korea fell under American domination. North Korea started reform activities under a temporary Peoples Committee with the help of the Russian army.

In South Korea America continued the earlier Japanese system of administration. Being fed up with this system, in the election to the Supreme Peoples Assembly in 1948, people expressed their willingness to merge with North Korea and become an independent democratic country.

In the first meeting of the Assembly in september 1948 Korea was declared as Peoples Democratic Republic. The assembly demanded America and Russia to withdraw their armies from both the Koreas. Russia accepted the proposal but America rejected it and even prepared to fight against North Korea.

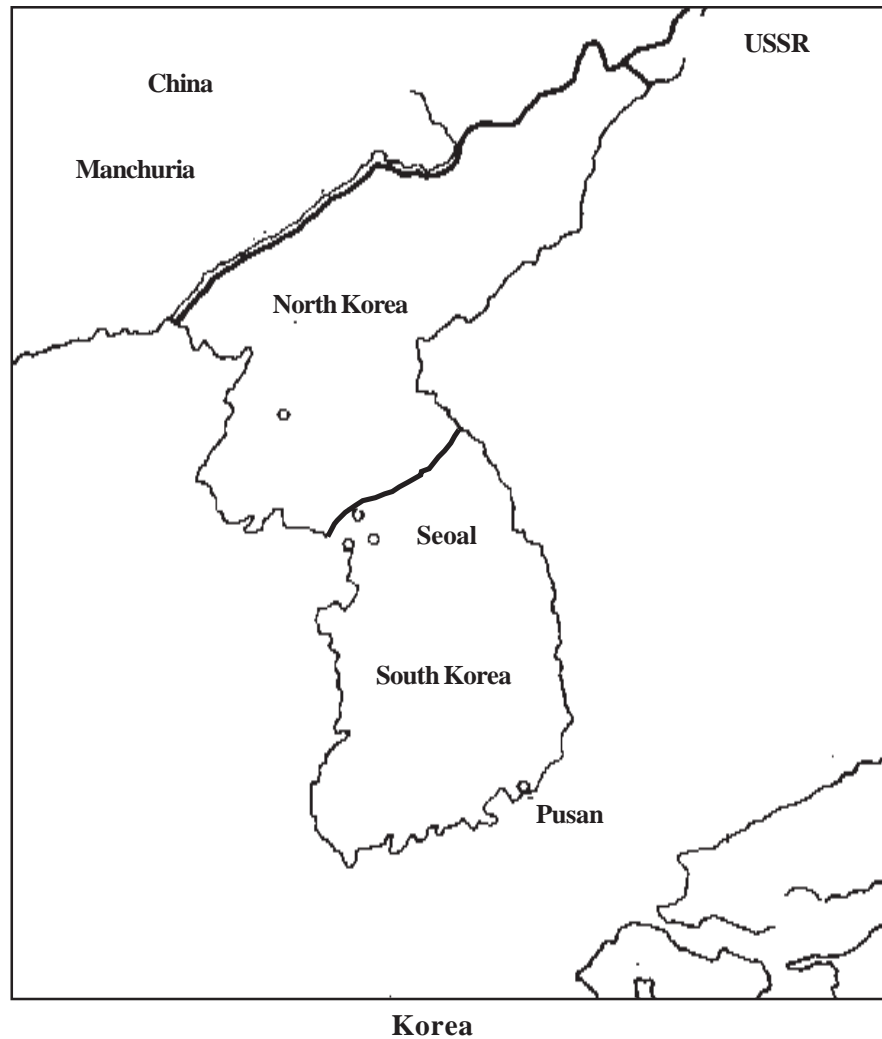
### **Vietnam becomes a democratic republic**

Ho chi Minh stated that throughout his life he had served his fatherland, the revolution and his people wholeheartedly. In case he had to leave the world there was nothing to be worried except the feeling that he could not serve the country for some more time. He added that on his death expensive ceremonies must be avoided. That would be a waste of the time and money of the people.

The above lines are from the testament of Ho Chi Minh whom the Vietnamese affectionaely call Uncle Ho.

*Who was Ho Chi Minh?*

After the second world war, Indo-China remained as a disputed place in South East Asia.



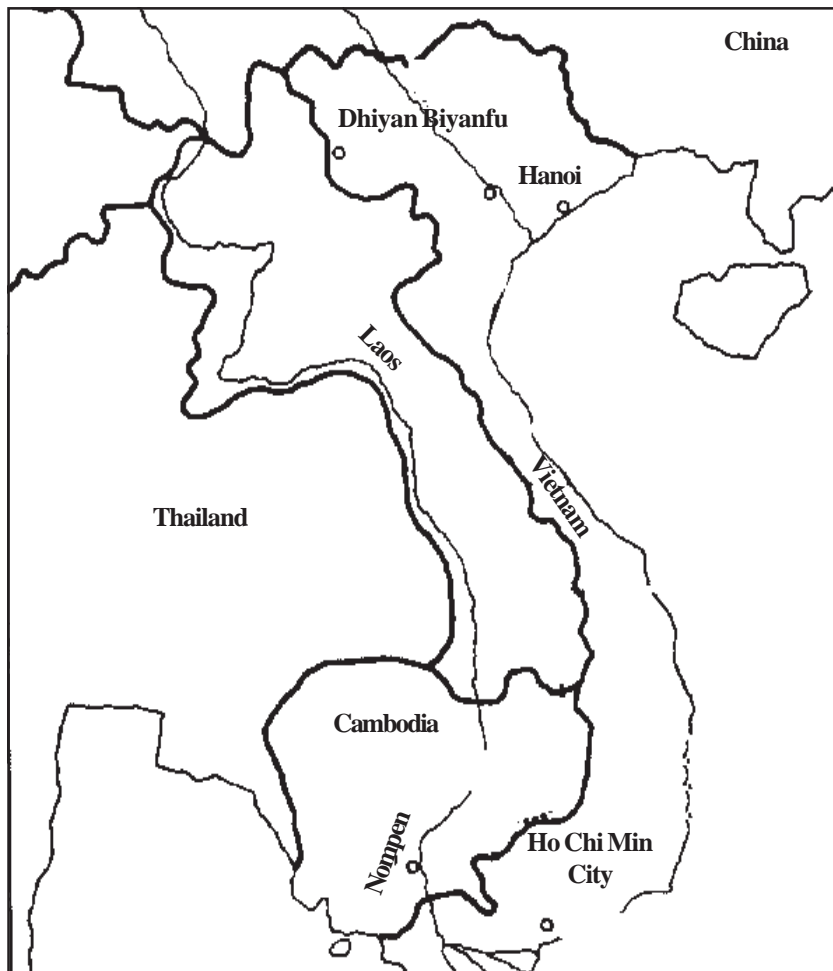
The countries of Indo-China were Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. In the first phase of the agitation against imperialism Vietnam got freedom from French domination on 2nd september 1945. Thus the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was formed under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh. The American policy of containment of communism forced Vietnam to take up arms for self defence. The legendary battle of the people of Vietnam against the American imperialism under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh resulted in the defeat of American imperialism. From 1945 to 1975 Vietnam fought against Japan, France and America and won ultimate victory.

Compare the struggle of the people of Vietnam with the Korean revolution.

How did a small Asian country like Vietnam defeat America, the biggest military and economic power in the world? Collect details and note it down in 'Enquiry Notes'.

There was relentless encounter between socialist and capitalist ideologies in the modern world. What were the important consequences of those conflicts?

During the time of the war Soviet Union and America had come to an understanding over several vital international problems. This understanding was the basis for the formation of



Indo - China

United Nations Organization, Potsdam conference and formation of treaties involving the countries allied to Nazi Germany like Italy, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Finland etc... Soviet Union and the imperial powers had worked together in several fields during the war. They had co-operated in several international issues like the formation of U.N.O.

What led to the failure of their relation in later?

On 5 March 1946 the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivered a speech at the city of Fulton in America. The speech was made in the presence of President Truman. It was a call for an uncompromising fight against the Soviet

Union in political matters. He also remarked that Anglo Saxon countries must unite themselves for the fight. This speech was the beginning of the long drawn cold war.

### **Cold War**

Cold war was a war of words and ideologies. It was neither a condition of war nor a condition of peace. The word cold war was used for the first time by the American diplomat Bernard Baruch.

Let us examine the role played by the American bloc and Socialist bloc in promoting cold war.

The growth of socialism and revolutionary organisations was a threat to capitalism.

Capitalist nations assumed the role of world police all by themselves. They were ready to rush anywhere to settle issues. The Soviet Union used to object such interventions. Many countries joined either the American or Russian blocs. These blocs were later converted in to military alliances that accelerated the pace of cold war.

\* *Examine the chart given below.*

**Palestine - Israel Crisis**

Role of America in cold war	Role of Socialist bloc in cold war
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tried to spread capitalism through out the world</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tried to spread socialist order through out the world.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tried to protect capitalism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tried to protect socialist order.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the war America tried to increase their influence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the war Stalin tried to enhance the influence of Soviet Union in Europe.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forged alliances such as NATO, SEATO, CENTO etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formed the Warsaw Pact.</li> </ul>

"I have an olive leaf in my one hand and a gun in the other. I may not be forced to lay down the olive leaf" The extract is from the speech of Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation at the UN session. The Israel Palestine question is still alive in the media. What are the reasons for the West Asian crisis which has caused a lot of blood shed.

**Zionist Movement**

Jerusalem, in Palestine, is an important place for Christians, Muslims and Jews. About 2000 years ago the Jews were uprooted from their homeland by the Romans. Only a small group of Jews lived around Palestine. In course of time Arabs made Palestine as their homeland. In 1879 the Jews who lived in Europe founded

the World Zionist Movement at Basile in Switzerland. Its objective was to organise a National Home land exclusively for the Jews in Palestine.

They believed that this place would be a shelter for the tormented Jews living in different parts of the world.

In 1917 England supported this idea. In 1919 Palestine came under British control and there was a steady flow of Jewish refugees to Palestine. The new generation of Arabs strongly

opposed this as they had been living there for about, 200 years. By 1937 more than half of the population of Palestine was Jews. British attempt to divide Palestine between the Arabs and the Jews was not acceptable to the Arabs. Thousands of Jews, who escaped from Hitler reached Palestine during second world war and joined in the extremist struggle for homeland .

**First Arab- Israel conflict**

On 14th May 1948, the British withdrew their troops from Palestine without making provision to transfer authority either to the Arabs or to the Jews. Soon a war broke out for control over Palestine. On the very day the British withdrew, the Zionists declared the formation of the state of Israel at Tel Aviv. America and Soviet

Union recognized the new state. India did not recognize Israel. To help the Arabs and not to lose Palestine Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yamen, Saudi Arabia and Jordan declared war against Israel. Israel stunned the world through their victory in this war. Lakhs of Palestinian Arabs became refugees. About 10 lakh Arabs fled to Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. They had to lead a miserable life in the refugee camps.

They had their own language, culture, national flag, national anthem and above all UN membership. Yet the Palestinian Arabs turned out to be people without a nation. West Asia is still a burning problem.

Collect news and pictures from contemporary publications and add to 'Our Times'

Military alliances	Place and date of signature	Area of activity/head quarters	Member nations	Objectives
1. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation- (NATO)	March 1949, Washington	Western Europe	Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, Canada, America, Greece Germany.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide mutual economic assistance</li> <li>• Peaceful settlement of disputes</li> <li>• Aggression against any member nation must be treated as aggression against all the members and must be provided to the member nation with military assistance.</li> </ul>
2. South East Asian Treaty Organisation- (SEATO).	1954, Manila	South East Asia, Bangkok	America, Britain, France, Australia, Newzeland, Pakistan, Thailand, and Philippines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peaceful settlement of internal disputes</li> <li>• United effort to crush military aggressions.</li> </ul>
3. Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO).	The Baghdad Agreement formed in 1955 was renamed as CENTO in 1958	West Asia Ankara	Turkey, Britain, Pakistan, Iran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutual co-operation for defence and security</li> <li>• Non interference in the internal affairs of others. Disputes if any, must be settled peacefully.</li> </ul>
4. Warsaw Pact	1955 May Warsaw	Eastern Europe Moscow	Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Roumania and East Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peaceful settlement of disputes between members</li> <li>• Provide military assistance to resist external aggression</li> <li>• Maintain economic and cultural relationship.</li> </ul>

Prepare an exclusive report on the Arab Israel problem. What aspects can be included in it?

- Six day war in 1967
- Yom Kippur war in 1973
- PLO and other organisations
- Efforts for Peace
- PLO- Israel Agreement
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\* *Prepare posters and pamphlets under the auspices of the Social Science Club expressing solidarity to the Palestinians.*



Palasteinian children undergoing military training

## Suez Canal Crisis

Egypt was liberated from foreign domination in 1952. Thereafter Egypt followed an independent foreign policy. Egypt refused to join the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) against Soviet Union. Suez canal that linked the Mediterranean sea in the Red sea was controlled by a company jointly owned by England and France. The imperialist powers controlled central Asian trade, military and diplomatic affairs by the traffic of Suez canal. In July 1956 Gamal Abdul Nazar, the President of Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal. This was a severe shock to the imperialist powers like Britain and France. Instigated by them Israel attacked Egypt. Soon England and France joined the war. Soviet Union came to the rescue of Egypt. This created a crisis at an international level. There was the fear of another world war. The pro-Egyptian attitude of Russia forced the imperialist powers to withdraw from the war. What was the impact of the Suez Canal crisis on Arab- Israeli relations.? Gather information and add to Enquiry Notes.

## Cuban Crisis

Cuba is a small Latin American country. Freed from Spanish rule in 1898, Cuba became a semi - colony of the USA. It was followed by the brutal and corrupt regime of Batista. The revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro captured power and put an end to the rule of Batista on 1st January, 1959. The U.S became restless at the change of government in Cuba and took retaliatory measures. It severed diplomatic relations with Cuba and stopped the import of sugar from Cuba. USA sent mercenaries to the Bay of Pigs in Cuba and tried to capture power. But this attempt was spoiled by Fidel Castro.

## Missile Crisis

After the Bay of Pigs crisis Cuba, the sugar bowl of the world, moved closer to Russia. This led to the missile crisis. The Russian attempt to install nuclear missiles in Cuba precipitated the crisis. Military advisers of American President Kennedy urged him to attack Cuban missile installations. America planned a naval blockade of Cuba to keep out eleven Russian ships bringing missiles to Cuba. There was the threat of another world war. The world was watching the situation with bated breath. The great Malayalam novelist Thakazi, who was in Cuba at that time narrates it in his book 'Ormayude Thirangalil'. He narrates as follows:

*"It was felt that tension had gripped the streets of New Orleans. A feeling of some imminent calamity prevailed everywhere. At four in the evening there came an announcement: President Kennady would come on the television to address the nation at 8'O clock. And at 8'O Clock sharp he came on the television. Referring to some line in the sea he (Kennady) said, "On behalf of the government and the people of USA orders are being issued to the American armed forces to sink any ship that crosses this line". It was a veritable command- a rock splitting command. At that movement eleven Soviet ships were sailing in the direction of Cuba. New Orleans went hysterical. Would it be ever possible to return home and see Katha and children. I remembered my beloved village of Thakazy. At 11<sup>0</sup>C in the night, there came a flash statement from the Soviet President Krushchev which ran like this "In the name of the Soviet*

*government and its people I order all the eleven ships pound for Cuba to change their destination- for the sake of world peace. The one name that resounded in the streets that right was that of Krushchev. But the next day the American dailies reported 'Crushchev surrenders'.*

## Iran Iraq war

In 1980 Iraq attacked Iran throwing Central Asia in to another crisis. Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the American puppet regime headed by Pahlavi Shah of Iran and established the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979. To retain their hold over Iran, America encouraged Iraq to attack Iran. Iraq used British and Russian weapons where as Iran depended on the arms and ammunition of China, North Korea and even of USA. The war stretched for years . Great damage was inflicted to life and property. In 1988 on UN intervention peace treaties were signed by the fighting nations.

What would have been the impact of the war between oil exporting countries like Iran and Iraq on other countries of the world?

How did the war affect us? Collect details and add to the Enquiry Notes.

## End of cold war

Attempts to end the cold war began in the 1950 itself. The strain in the Sino-Soviet relations and the conflicts of communist countries weakened the communist bloc. At the same time the unity of the capitalist countries was also broke up. Military alliances became weak. America and Soviet Union agreed to limit nuclear experiments and cut down the number of missiles. In 1989 communist party lost power in East European

countries. The unification of the two Germany in 1990 also lessened the intensity of the cold war. With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 cold war came to an end.

- \* *Prepare a news diary based on the tension that prevailed during the cold war.*

Did the strife among countries end with the cold war?

Collect information about the attack on Iraq by England and America after the end of cold war. Collect information about the problems that Iraq faces at present and add to Our Times.

### **Liberation of colonies**

In the age of cold war and tensions colonies were getting liberated.

If 19th century was the age of imperialist expansion 20th century was the age of

emancipation of Asian and African colonies. War was a blessing for them. After the World War II Britain, France, Holland, Belgium, etc. were forced to grant freedom to the colonies. Which are the colonies that became independent in this way?

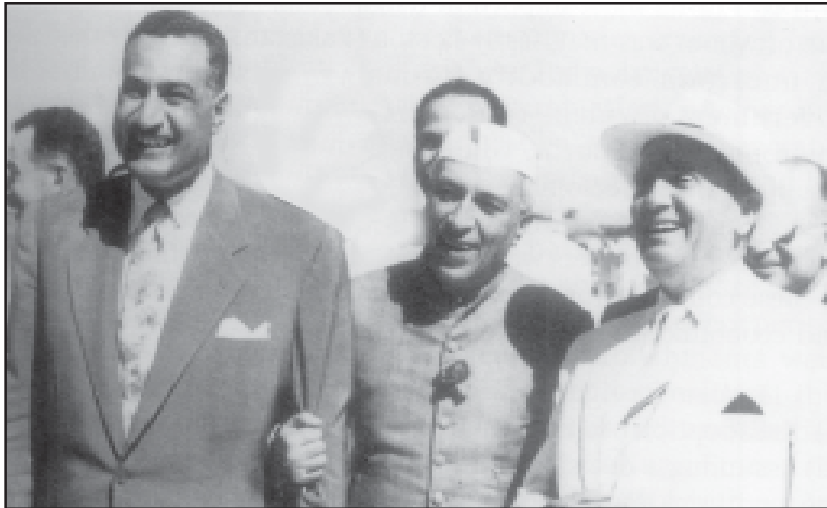
Examine the chart given below.

- \* *Include the continents in the chart. Expand it by adding more colonies. With the help of the Atlas mark the independent colonies in the world map*

Why were all these colonies liberated after the war?

- Imperialist powers had to settle the problems that arose in their respective countries due to the war and so could not effectively defend the freedom struggles in the colonies

Colonies	Continent	Mother Country	Year of Independence
1. India		Britain	1947
2. Pakistan		"	1947
3. Myanmar		"	1948
4. Sri Lanka		"	1948
5. Sudan		"	1953
6. Malaysia		"	1959
7. Singapore		"	1960
8. Cyprus		"	1965
9. Gambia		"	1966
10. Libya		Italy	1945
11. Tunisia		France	1960
12. Ivory Coast		"	1960
13. French Guayana		"	1960
14. Congo		Belgium	1960
15. Rwanda		"	1962
16. Equatorial Africa		Spain	1968



Architects of the NAM - Nasser, Nehru, Tito

- War brought distress to the people of the colonies. War fought for the imperialists created an aversion in them. There was a sudden growth of nationalism in the colonies.
- During the war Japan upheld the slogan 'Asia for Asians'. Though their intention was to occupy Asian countries the slogan stirred the Asian colonies.

### Non Alignment Movement

With the fall of the empires colonies emerged independent. They entered the international scene as new states. These independent countries discussed the necessity for remaining neutral in a world divided between two power blocs

The idea of Non-Alignment took shape in the Afro-Asian conference held at Bandung (Indonesia) in April 1955.

The first Non-Alignment conference was held at Belgrade in Yugoslavia in 1961. It was attended by 25 members. The organisation was criticised by America and others but it amassed strength under the efficient leadership of Nehru, Tito, and Nasser

### Objectives of Non - Alignment Movement

- Liquidate colonialism and imperialism
- Ensure international peace and security and encourage disarmament
- End racialism and apartheid
- Build up a new international economic order

The Non-Alignment movement is the second largest international organisation, the first being the United Nations Organisation.

- How many members are there in the movement today?
- What are the achievements of the movement?
- What are the drawbacks?.
- \* *Collect information and record in the Enquiry Note. Is there any relevance to the present day world? Conduct a debate*

### Project

We have seen many wars that shook the world. What is the message they give us? Which section of people faced calamity in each war?

What are the damages brought by each war?  
How are science and war related to each other?

How many questions are there pertaining to war! Make exhaustive enquiry of wars. What is your opinion about war? 'No more war' - this is the slogan of those who seek peace. When we examine the history of wars does such a slogan seen practical? Collect relevent data and write a project

### Summary

- After the war socialist ideology spread through out the world
- Revolutions took place in many countries
- Capitalist ideologies and socialist ideologies competed for domination in the post war world
- Military alliances were established
- Cold war remained another threat in the world
- Several crises were created in the Asian and Latin American countries
- Asian and African colonies were liberated after the war
- The coalition of Non - Alignment countries came in to existence

### Questions

- What are the circumstances that led to the formation of a foreign policy known as cold war among imperialist nations?
- It is found that America gained much from the world war II. Why?.
- What were the important changes brought about by the revolution in China?

- What is meant by Cuban Missile Crisis?
- What were the developments that led to the Suez Canal crisis?

1 Crises created by the Cold War. Write short essay. What aspects can be included in this essay?

- What is meant by cold war?
- What were the events that led to the cold war?

• Military alliances that emerged out of cold war?

• Problems caused by the cold war

2 World War II and the liberation of colonies. What points are to be included?

- Newly liberated colonies in Asia and Africa
- Growth of freedom movements in the colonies after the war.

• Circumstances that forced the colonial powers to grant freedom to the colonies

• Attainment of freedom by India

3 World War II and growth of socialist ideologies. What are the factors to be included ?

• Spread of Socialist order in Eastern Europe.

- Cuban Revolution
- Chinese Revolution
- Korean Revolution
- Sino - Indian problems

Collect pictures and news items related to war for your collection of contemporary affairs.

